public interest to disclose the detailed break-up of such spare capacities.

(c) Steps taken in this behalf include—

(i) Diversification into areas of manufacture of items required by non-Defence users, such as Railways, Central and State Police and Security Forces, Public Sector Undertakings, etc. and

(ii) Export of Ordinance Factory products to foreign countries.

Jobs to Widows/Dependants of IPKF Personnel killed in Sri Lanka

1538. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total number of IPKF personnel killed in Sri Lanka;

(b) what is the total number of Widows and dependants of the IPKF who have been offered jobs and alternative sources of employment; and

(c) whether any time bound progamme has been made for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) 1157 (including 34 personnel reported missing and presumed killed).

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Up to two dependants of Defence Service personnel killed/disabled in action, including war widows, are entitled to Priority II (a) (disabled over 50 per cent disability and unfit for employment, but disability attributable to military service) for the purposes of employment against Group 'C' and 'D' posts under the Central Government. In respect of IPKF casualties, as a special dispensation, Government have issued guidelines, as follows, to various Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings:—

(i) priority for employment to be given to disable personnel for employment under Government, over other normal cases of ex-Servicemen under against vacancies reserved for them;

(ii) priority and compassionate appointment to dependants of IPKF personnel killed in Sri Lanka operations with suitable relevation to the extent possible, especially regarding criteria for consideration of terminal benefits received, while assessing need for such appointment.

Abolition of special status of Public Schools

1539. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently formulated any scheme to abolish the special status of the Public Schools in the country;

(b) whether Government also propose to ensure higher standard of education to all the school-going children in the country without any consideration of caste, creed or status;

(c) whether Government would allow admission to school-going children in the nearest school in the locality irrespective of the fact whether it is a Public School or Municipal School; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Public schools have not been accorded any special status by the Government. Therefore, the question of abolishing the special status does not arise.

The National Policy on Education, 1986 recommended the establishment of a national system of education implying that up to a given level, all students irrespective of caste, creed, location or

sex have access to education of a comparable quality.

Maintenance of a broad commonality of standards in all the schools of the country has been sought to be achieved by the following ways:—

(i) Making available to all the schools a broadly uniform pattern of syllabi|texbooks designed on the basis of National Curricular Framework for elementary, secondary and higher secondary education brought out by the N.C.E.R.T.

(ii) Requiring all the schools sending their students for Board Examinations to be affiliated to the concerned State Board, the CBSE or the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, as the case may be and thereby to follow the syllabi|textbooks prescribed by the respective Board designed on the basis of the National Curricular Framework.

(iii) Improving the physical facilities and other educational inputs in schools through a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and programmes.

The Education Commission (1964-66) and the National Policy on Education (1986) heve recommended that measures should be taken in the direction of the Common School System. The Neighbourhood School Concept is one of the steps to be taken for realization of this goal. The Government would like to bring the existing schools under the Neighbourhood School Concept with a view to effecting egalitarianism in school education.

Setting up of Autonomous Agency for Defence Exports

1540. SHRI SOMPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Qunestion 110 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 1989 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision for setting up of an autonomous agency for promoting defence exports;

(b) if so, what is the progress made in this regard so far; and

(c) if no progress has been made; what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (c) Based on a decision 'in principle' in 1989, to set up an autonomous agency for promoting defence exports, certain preliminary steps had been initiated for the constitution of such an agency. In the interim period, various measures of liberalisations in policy and procedures of exports of defence stores have also been carried out and the existing production agencies such as Defence Public Sector Undertakings and the Ordnance Factory Board have also been permitted to engage in direct exports. In the light of these measures and the progress achieved in defence exports, subsequent to 1989, a final decision on constituting an autonomous agency for promoting defence exports in under the consideration of the Government.

Reproduction of T.V. Serial "Race to Save the Planet"

1541 SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has decided to reproduce the English T.V. Serial entitled "RACE TO SAVE THE PLANET" in Hindi and other regional languages;

(b) if so, what is the total amount involved in this Serial and which are the National and International Educational Research Centres participating| helping the U.G.C.; and

(c) by when the above mentioned serial is expected to be telecast on Doordarshan National Network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The University Grants Commission has entered into an agreement with WGBH